

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1, 10, 12, 16 and 19 have been amended to clarify the recited subject matter. Claims 1-20 are pending.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-7, 12, 14 and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Salmela et al. (WO 98/30056; hereafter “Salmela”), rejected claims 8, 10, 11, 13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Salmela in view of Nordstrand et al. (U.S. 6,334,052; hereafter “Nordstrand”) and Seppanen et al. (U.S. 5,903,832; hereafter “Seppanen”), rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Salmela in view of the Office Action’s official notice of allegedly well known technology, and rejected claims 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nordstrand in view of Seppanen. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections because the cited prior art, analyzed individually or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest all the features of the rejected claims.

For example, the cited prior art fails to disclose, teach or suggest the claimed: method for deciding whether a subscriber’s mobile station is allowed to camp in a cell of a mobile communications system comprising location areas defined to be network-specific, the method comprising “defining some of the location areas to be network-specific exclusive location areas comprising exclusive cells . . . checking, irrespective of whether or not the subscriber has a list of special cells, during the location update procedure whether the new location area is an exclusive location area . . . .” as recited in independent claim 1;

network “wherein at least one of the location areas is defined to be a network-specific exclusive location area comprising at least one exclusive access cell, and the network is arranged to . . . check, irrespective of whether or not the subscriber has a list of special cells, whether the location area in the location update is an exclusive location area . . . .,” as recited in independent claim 12;

network element in a mobile communications system, wherein the network element is arranged to store or to have access to information about network-specific exclusive location areas comprising one or more exclusive access cells, and, in response to a location update to a cell, to check, irrespective of whether or not the subscriber has a list of special cells, whether the location area to which the location update is targeted is an exclusive location area . . . .,” as recited in independent claim 16; or

mobile station which “supports cell service definitions in a mobile communications system comprising location areas defined to be network-specific, the mobile station being arranged to receive broadcast information about a location area of the cell, and to determine whether or not the subscriber is allowed to camp in the cell in response to receiving in the

broadcast a new location area and an indication indicating that the cell belongs to a network-specific location area comprising exclusive cells . . . .,” as recited in independent claim 19.

The Office Action asserted that the localized service areas and special cells of Salmela respectively correspond to the claimed exclusive location areas and exclusive cells. However, such an assertion is contrary to the express teachings of Salmela because, Salmela teaches that localized service areas are defined to be subscriber-specific or subscriber group-specific. (Page 15, lines 26-29.) To the contrary, location areas are expressly defined to be network-specific. Accordingly, Salmela does not teach or suggest a network, method, network element or mobile station that utilize definition of some location areas as network-specific exclusive location areas comprising exclusive cells nor the checking, irrespective of whether or not the subscriber has a list of special cells, during the location update procedure whether the new location area is an exclusive location area.

Nordstrand fails to remedy the deficiencies of Salmela because Nordstrand too does not disclose exclusive location areas. In Nordstrand, the “exclusive access” indicator is recognized only by mobile stations with subscription-based information and is used to ignore the “cell barred” indicator. Mobile stations without subscription-based information do not attempt to trigger a location update procedure in response to the “cell barred indicator,” nor check whether they are allowed to camp in the relevant cell. (Page 16, lines 8-26.)

Additionally, the Office Action’s official notice fails to remedy these deficiencies either.

Furthermore, Seppanen fails to remedy the deficiencies of Salmela, Nordstrand and the official notice because Seppanen merely discloses mobile terminal searching for a suitable network and if a suitable network is not found, entry of the limited service state. However, a suitable network is not the same as a suitable cell.

Thus, the combined teachings of Salmela, Nordstrand, the official notice and Seppanen, fail to disclose, teach or suggest the claimed invention. Accordingly, claims 1-20 are allowable.

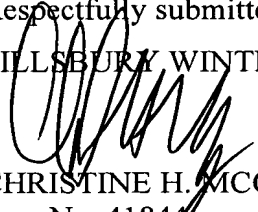
All objections and rejections having been addressed, Applicants request issuance of a notice of allowance indicating the allowability of claims 1-20. If anything further is necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, Applicants request that the Examiner contact Applicants’ undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

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Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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